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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, BRUCE C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2881

DATE MAILED: 07 22 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,637

Applicant(s)

WASHEBECK ET AL

Examiner

BRUCE C ANDERSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1, 10, 12, 13 and 14, it is unclear what is producing the corona discharge.

In claim 1, it is suggested that in line 9 before "electrode magazine" that one insert -corona-. In line 10 after "parallel" it is suggested the word -corona--be inserted. Like insertions should be made in the other independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

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not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonner (043) in view of Spence (659) and Pieper (240).

Bonner (043) discloses a corona discharge device comprising high voltage electrodes (22) in a corona electrode assembly/magazine (12) connected to a high voltage source, via connector (15); an opposing treatment roller (8); a support tube (14) coupled to said electrode assembly/magazine which is removably mounted (abstract), via a pair of electrodes slidably mounted in porcelain holder blocks (col.2, lines 42-43); idler rollers located below said treatment roller; and two parallel (front/rear) plates bracketing said above combination. Note for cleaning purposes the electrode magazine (12) may be slid off projections (40) (col.2, line 62)--going from an operative to an inoperative position.

Furthermore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a high voltage source may be incorporated into an enclosure holding a web treatment device, as broadly taught by the secondary reference to Spence. For example, see Figure 1, means 1 and claim 1.

Alternative movable slide supports are also well known in the prior art, as seen in the corona discharge device to Pieper. In this particular instance, the entire corona assembly/magazine is slide parallel to the axis of the treatment roller via a handle

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treatment area (see abstract & Figures 2-3). Note that with this arrangement the gap between said assembly/magazine and treatment roller would be changed / adjusted (see claim 1, lines 12-13).

Therefore, one may design a sliding corona electrode assembly/magazine in any number of equivalent ways, including the use of guide rails as taught by Pieper, that could be attached to said above support tube of Bonner in an alternative manner, if so desired.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 13 is allowed.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ahlbrandt (544)/(523) , and DE 2849233A, have been cited to show other similar corona treatment devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRUCE C ANDERSON whose telephone number is 703-308-4851. The examiner can normally be reached on MON.-FRI. 6:15AM-3:45PM (off ALT. FRI.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN LEE can be reached on 703-308-4116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-2864 for After Final communications

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



BRUCE C ANDERSON
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2881

BCA
October 15, 2002